

REMARKS

I. The Pending Claims and the Amendments to the Claims

The specification has been amended at Page 5 lines 21-26. Support for this amendment can be found in Claim 12 as filed March 4, 1998.

With the entry of the amendment set forth above, Claims 22-25 and 40-55 are pending.

Claim 22 is the only pending independent claim. Claim 22 is amended by the inclusion of a feature previously recited in canceled Claims 26 and 27. Support for newly-presented Claims 40-55 can be found in the specification, as follows:

Claim Number	Support in Specification
40	Page 2 lines 2-4 and 16-20
41	Page 2 lines 17-23
42	Page 3 lines 27-28
43	Page 4 lines 9-11
44	Page 4 lines 20-22
45	Page 4 lines 16-17
46	Page 4 lines 29-30
47	Page 5 lines 7-10
48	Page 5 lines 7-10
49	Page 5 lines 11-14
50	Page 5 lines 15-20

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51	Page 5 lines 21-24
52	Page 6 lines 1-9
53	Page 5 lines 24-26
54	Page 6 lines 9-10
55	Page 3 line 27 through Page 4 line 2; Page 6 lines 11-12; Page 4 lines 29-30; and, Page 5 lines 3-6

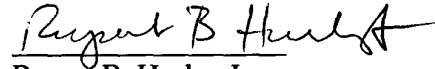
The amendments contain no new matter. A marked-up copy of the amendments to the specification and claims is provided herewith in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

II. The Pending Claims Are Patentable over YOSHII et al

Various pending claims in parent USSN 09/034,836 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over US Patent No. 6,146,726, to Yoshii et al (“YOSHII et al”). However, all of the pending claims in the instant application are patentable over YOSHII et al because all of the pending claims recite stacking the bags on top of one another before sealing the bags. YOSHII et al does not teach or suggest stacking the bags on top of one another before sealing.

In view of all of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-8, 11-19, and 28-39 are patentable over the prior art of record, and in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Appendix A: Amendments to Specification
Appendix B: Amendments to Claims

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